

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a lithographic printing master, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a printing precursor comprising on a lithographic base an imageable coating, the imageable coating comprising hydrophobic polymer particles,
 - b. imagewise converting the imageable coating with a liquid coalescing agent and
 - c. removing the areas of the imageable coating that have not been imagewise converted using a developer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the imageable coating further comprises a coalescence inhibitor.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises the steps of
 - a. coating of a layer of imageable medium onto the lithographic base and
 - b. curing the layer to form the imageable coating.
4. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of heating the imagewise converted imageable coating.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed on a lithographic press.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the method is performed on a lithographic press.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid coalescing agent comprises at least one of a hydrocarbon, an ether, an ester, a glycol, a carbonyl and an alcohol.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the coalescing agent additionally comprises at least one of
- a. an indicator dye,
 - 5 b. a surfactant,
 - c. a biocide and
 - d. a substance capable of modifying the electrical conductivity of the coalescing agent.
- 10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the developer is an aqueous developer.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the aqueous developer is one of
- a. fountain solution and
 - 15 b. a liquid comprising tap water.
11. The method of claim 5, wherein the developer is fountain solution.
12. A printing apparatus comprising
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- a. an inking means for inking a lithographic printing master,
 - b. a means for applying fountain solution to at least one of
 - i. a lithographic precursor and
 - ii. a litho graphic printing master,
 - 25 c. a deposition means capable of imagewise depositing coalescing agent on a lithographic precursor.
13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising,
- a. a coating means capable of coating imageable medium onto a
 - 30 lithographic base and
 - b. a curing means capable of curing imageable medium that has been coated onto a lithographic base.
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14. An apparatus for making a lithographic printing master, the apparatus comprising
- a. a coating means capable of coating an imageable medium onto a lithographic base,
 - 5 b. a curing means capable of curing the imageable medium that has been coated onto the lithographic base, thereby to form a lithographic precursor, and
 - c. a deposition means capable of imagewise depositing coalescing agent on a lithographic precursor to form an imaged precursor.
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15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a means capable of treating the imaged precursor with a developer.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the developer is one of
- 15 a. fountain solution and
 - b. a liquid comprising tap water.